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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

USSR CELEBRATES NAVY DAY 1950

The USSR celebrated Navy Day 1950 on 23 July with the usual lectures, launch trips, water-sports show, and meetings during the week preceding the holiday.

Information of intelligence value, as was the case with Aviation Day 1950 [redacted], was almost completely lacking in newspaper accounts of the Navy Day celebrations, apparently indicating a definite tightening of security regulations concerning divulging of state secrets.

Navy Day of the USSR was established by a joint decree of the Council of People's Commissars and Central Committee of the VKP(b) on 22 June 1939 "with the aim of rallying the broad masses of workers around the problems of building the USSR Navy and the tasks facing it."

Krasnyy Flot, on 4 July set the tone for Navy Day 1950 in its article, "USSR Navy Day," written for the guidance of speakers. The postwar strengthening of the Navy is explained by the statement that "as long as the capitalist world exists, the threat of attack upon the USSR will also exist." The article makes reference to the Korean war, naming the US as the aggressor against both the Korean and Chinese republics.

After reviewing briefly Russia's struggle for outlets to the sea, the article claimed Russian priority in naval tactics (Nelson is said to have used Ushakov's tactical methods in the battle of Trafalgar), and in the invention, improvement, and utilization of many types of ships, naval gear, and machinery. Discovery of the Antarctic in 1819 is also claimed, apparently with the aim of reinforcing the Soviet government's note of 7 June 1950 to the US and Great Britain on the question of claims to the Antarctic.

The article continues with a review of the Red Fleet's activities; a separate Naval Ministry is held to be indicative of Party and government concern for the strengthening of the USSR Navy.

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Celebrations in the union-republic capitals and other cities followed the pattern for such celebrations. For several days prior to Navy Day, representatives of DOSFLOT organizations, Party agitators, and lecturers from republic Societies for the Dissemination of Political and Scientific Knowledge gave lectures and talks on the role of Lenin and Stalin in the creation of the Navy, the revolutionary tradition of the Red Navy, DOSFLOT as a mass organization of Soviet patriots, the Russian Fleet as the cradle of the greatest technical discoveries, the Navy during the war, Admiral S. O. Makarov (1848 - 1904), etc.

A feature of this year's celebration was the trips made by naval launches of the Baltic, Black, and White Sea fleets and Caspian Sea Flotilla from their home ports to Moscow. Moskovskiy Komsomolets on 22 July 1950 carried the following account: using oar and sail, 40 sailors who comprised the four launch crews traveled the waterways of the USSR, stopping frequently to give talks on Navy Day en route, and arrived at Moscow in time for formal celebrations on 23 July. The launch of the Caspian Sea Flotilla left Astrakhan' on 21 May, and covered 3,250 kilometers on its trip up the Volga. The Northern Fleet's launch which traveled 2,226 kilometers, left Arkhangel'sk on 2 June, navigated the Northern Dvina and Little Dvina rivers, Kubin Lake, Sheksna River, the Rybinsk Reservoir (where it met the launch of the Baltic Sea Fleet), the Volga River, and the Moscow Canal to Moscow. The launch of the Baltic Fleet left Kronstadt on 4 June and went by way of the Neva River, through Lake Ladoga, the Vytegra and Kovzha rivers, Beloye Lake, Sheksna River, Rybinsk Reservoir, the Volga River, and the Moscow Canal to Moscow, a total of 1,500 kilometers. The Black Sea Fleet launch left Sevastopol' on 24 May, went through the Sea of Azov, up the Don River, portaged between the Don and Oka rivers by train, traveled up the Oka to Moscow River and the capital, for a 3,000-kilometer trip.

On 23 July the launches completed their trips in a ceremonial race (won by the launch of the Northern Fleet) before thousands of Moscow residents gathered on the banks of the Moscow River in honor of Navy Day, and presented their reports to Rear Admiral V. F. Kotov.

The main festivities, including a 2½-hour water-sports show, were held in Moscow on 23 July. The celebration, according to Vechernyaya Moskva, 24 July 1950, was opened by a naval cutter carrying Captain First Rank Ya. Ioseliani of the Submarine Service, and was followed by a formation of river boats bearing Party slogans and posters. The ceremonial finish of the naval launch trips was followed by the water-sports competition sponsored by the All-Union DOSFLOT Council. Twenty teams from various republics, krays, and oblasts participated in the shell and sailboat races, and swimming and tug-of-war contests. An underwater crossing of the Moscow River by 20 divers highlighted the water sports. Two divers with underwater air-supply equipment strapped to their chests were pictured in Vechernyaya Moskva, 25 July. Later in the evening there were fireworks and a 20-gun salute in honor of Navy Day.

A formal meeting dedicated to Navy Day was held on the evening of 22 July, in the Zelenyy Theater of the Central Park of Culture and Rest imeni Gor'kiy, according to Leningradskaya Pravda, 23 July 1950. The meeting, which was sponsored by the Naval Ministry, was attended by representatives of Party, soviet, and civic organizations, the Soviet Army, and the shipbuilding industry. Seated in the presidium were V. A. Malyshev, Minister of the Shipbuilding Industry and a deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers USSR; Admiral I. S. Yumashev, Naval Minister of the USSR; N. V. Novikov, Minister of the Maritime Fleet; Z. A. Shashkov, Minister of the River Fleet; Marshal of the Soviet Union V. D. Sokolovskiy; Colonel General F. F. Kuznetsov; Admiral A. G. Golovko; Lieutenant General of the Coastal Service S. Ye. Zakharov; Lieutenant General N. V. Pupyshov; I. I. Rumyantsev, secretary, Moscow City Committee, VKP(b); T. I. Yershova, secretary, Central Committee, VLKSM; and others. Both Yumashev and Zakharov delivered addresses.

No mention was made of, nor were any articles published under the signature of Vice-Admiral A. Nikolayev, chairman, Orgburo and Central Committee, All-Union DOSFLOT, in newspaper accounts of the Navy Day celebrations. Nikolayev was identified in this position in Komsomol'skaya Pravda, 9 November 1949.

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Formal meetings were also held in other union-republic cities on 22 July:

In Baku, an address was made by Rear-Admiral G. G. Oleynik, commander of the Caspian Sea Flotilla. A newspaper article written by the admiral in Bakinskiy Rabochiy, 23 July, dealt with the creation of the 15 river and lake flotillas, and with the wartime activities of the Caspian Sea Flotilla.

General of the Army I. Kh. Bagramyan, commander of the Baltic Military District, was in the presidium of the formal meeting at Riga on 19 July. The meeting was probably held at this early date so as not to interfere with the formal celebration of the tenth anniversary of Soviet Latvia on 21 July. An address on Navy Day was given, but the speaker was unidentified in the account carried in Sovetskaya Latvya on 23 July.

In Minsk, the 22 July Navy Day address was delivered at the formal meeting by M. Kuchumov according to an account in Sovetskaya Belorussiya, 23 July 1950.

The formal meeting in Vil'nyus on 23 July, addressed by Gal'vidis, chairman, DOSFLOT Committee, Lithuanian SSR, was reported by Sovetskaya Litva, 25 July 1950.

The Navy Day address in Klaypeda was made by Kavalerschuk, according to Sovetskaya Litva, 23 July.

Vice Admiral Fadeyev made the Navy Day address at a formal meeting in Kharbarovsk on 22 July, according to Leningradskaya Pravda, 23 July 1950. The meeting was attended by representatives of Party, soviet, and civic groups, and by sailors and officers of the Amur River Flotilla.

Nearly all papers carried advertisements for Serge Eisenstein's The Battleship Potemkin, originally released as a silent film in 1925, which was reissued this year with an added sound track, in time for Navy Day celebrations. Moskovskaya Pravda on 23 July announced the reissue in commemoration of Navy Day of S. G. Makarov's Works on Oceanography.

On Navy Day, reviews of fleets and flotillas took place in their home ports throughout the USSR, with members of the fleet participating afterward in mass swims (in Sevastopol', Vladivostok, Baku, Riga, Kharbarovsk, and Odessa), meetings with the general public, and lectures on the activity of the Navy during the war. Song and dance ensembles from the Black and Baltic Sea fleets gave evening concerts in Moscow parks.

Displays of naval equipment and model ships as well as model ship contests, were held in a number of cities under the sponsorship of local DOSFLOT organizations. Boat trips for the general public were given by Yerevan and Przhheval'sk DOSFLOT organizations.

Photographic displays on the Soviet Navy, naval and water-sports meets, film festivals, and concerts to celebrate Navy Day were held in most of the large cities throughout the USSR.

Lead editorials in all newspapers on 23 July played up the priority of the Soviet Union in naval inventions, naval science, and geographic discovery, and called for a strengthening of the fleet in view of capitalist aggression. Almost all repeated in some form the statement that, "So long as the capitalist world exists, the threat of attack upon the USSR will also exist."

In addition to lead editorials, all newspapers carried articles on the second page by high-ranking Navy and DOSFLOT officials. The main theme in these also was the USSR's priority in the field of naval science, the activities of the fleet during the war, and the need for postwar strengthening of the Soviet Navy.

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Articles signed by Rear Admiral M. Yakovenko were published in 13 newspapers in 11 of the Soviet republics, and dealt mainly with the Navy's activities in the war and the postwar imperialist threat from the West.

Izvestiya on 23 July carried what was probably the best-written newspaper article on Navy Day. The author, Vice Admiral N. Vinogradov, referred to the sea boundaries of the USSR, the acquisition of warm-water ports, and the need for strengthening the Navy to defend those boundaries. Imperialist Military and air bases in 60 countries and island groups and their threat to the USSR were cited by Vinogradov as another reason for strengthening the Navy.

Admiral A. G. Golovko's article, "The Soviet Fleet in Defense of the Motherland," in Pravda 23 July, followed closely the line set by lead editorials.

Lieutenant General of the Coastal Service S. Ye. Zakharov, in the principal Navy Day article in Krasnyy Flot, 23 July, recalled Stalin's 1946 Navy Day Order calling for a mightier Navy, new ships, and new bases, and claimed that the Soviet Navy is now stronger than it was before the war.

Major General of the Coastal Service D. Korniyenko, in Moskovskaya Pravda 23 July, accused the US and Great Britain of exaggerating the roles their navies play in the destruction of the German and Japanese navies, pointing to Pearl Harbor and MacArthur's retreat from the Philippines and claiming all glory for the Soviet Navy.

Admiral G. I. Levchenko, whose article, "The Naval Fleet of the Soviet State," was carried in both Krasnyy Flot and Krasnaya Zvezda on 23 July, stressed past Russian and Soviet naval victories.

Rear Admiral V. F. Kotov in Moskovskiy Komsomolets, 23 July, paid tribute to the Komsomol organization and to its sponsorship of the Red Fleet, especially during the early years of its existence.

Rear Admiral N. Pterskiy emphasized the role of Lenin and Stalin in the creation of the Soviet Navy in Vechernyaya Moskva, 22 July.

Engineer Rear Admiral A. Brykin, in Komsomol'skaya Pravda, 23 July, described the work of the Komsomol among sailors, and credited that organization with helping to raise the level of military and political knowledge among fleet members.

Colonel G. F. Borozdkin, in Morskoy Flot, 23 July, wrote on the maritime and river fleets of the USSR and their role in the national economy, calling for an adequate navy to protect that economy.

In his article "We Are Mastering Naval Science," in Morskoy Flot, 23 July 1950, S. M. Sergeyev, deputy chairman, Central Committee, All-Union DOSFLOT Council, described the activities planned by DOSFLOT in connection with the celebration of Navy Day.

M. Artsev described the activities of DOSFLOT Navy Club No 2 in Moscow, in his article "Future Sailors," in Vechernyaya Moskva, 22 July.

M. Podshivalov, chairman, Sverdlovsk City DOSFLOT Committee, described a series of lectures on naval subjects given by DOSFLOT representatives and speakers from the Society for the Dissemination of Political and Scientific Knowledge, in Ural'skiy Rabochiy, 23 July.

Captain First Rank F. Ashanin, chairman, Moscow City DOSFLOT Committee, remarked on Moscow's 50-percent growth in DOSFLOT primary organizations during the past year, the two DOSFLOT navy clubs in the city, of the lecture schedule and naval and water-sports contests planned for Navy Day, in an article carried by Vechernyaya Moskva on 18 July and Moskovskiy Komsomolets on 23 July.

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An article written by V. Ushakov, chairman, Latvian SSR DOSFLOT Committee in Sovetskaya Latvija, 23 July, dealt with DOSFLOT activities in Latvian SSR during 1950.

V. Slavnin, deputy chairman, Belorussian SSR DOSFLOT Committee, told of naval- and water-sports contests to be sponsored by that organization in various cities of the republic in connection with Navy Day, in Sovetskaya Belorussia, 23 July.

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